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SOLAR/1058-79/05

### Monthly Performance Report



BRAD POPKIN MAY 1979





National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

**National Solar Data Program** 

### NOTICE \_

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### MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

BRAD POPKIN

MAY 1979

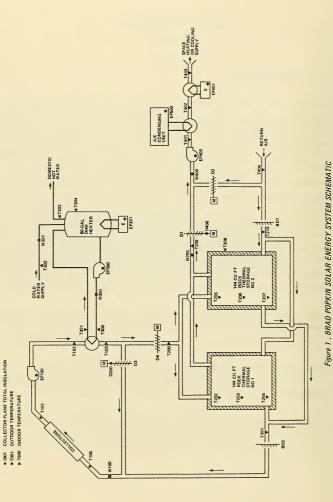
### SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Brad Popkin site is a single-family residence in Carrollton, Texas. The home has approximately 2300 square feet of conditioned space. Solar energy is used for space heating and preheating domestic hot water (DHW). The solar energy system has an array of seven flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 248 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 46 degrees to the horizontal. Air is the transfer medium that delivers solar energy from the collector array to storage and to the space heating load. Solar energy is stored aboveground in two 144-cubic-foot bins, each containing 7 tons of rock. The bins are 12 feet high by 4 feet in diameter with 3-inch concrete walls and 4 inches of fiberglass insulation. City water is supplied, on demand, to a conventional 80-gallon DHW tank. When solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the space heating load, an electrical heating element in the air-handling unit provides auxiliary energy for space heating. Similarly, an electrical heating element in the DHW tank provides auxiliary energy for water heating. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has six modes of solar operation.

<u>Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage</u>: This mode activates when temperature sensors detect a temperature difference of  $40^{\circ}F$  across the collector array. The collector loop fan turns on and pushes the heated air through rock storage.

<u>Mode 2 - Collector-to-Space Heating - Solar Only</u>: This mode activates when the collector loop fan is on and there is a demand for space heating and the temperature in the rock storage bins is equal to or greater than 90°F.

<u>Mode 3 - Collector-to-Space Heating - Solar Plus Heat Strips</u>: This mode activates when the collector loop fan is on and there is a demand for space heating and the temperature in the rock storage bins is greater than 70°F but less than 90°F.



<u>Mode 4 - Storage-to-Space Heating - Solar Only</u>: This mode activates when there is a demand for space heating and the temperature in the rock storage bins is equal to or greater than 90°F.

<u>Mode 5 - Storage-to-Space Heating - Solar Plus Heat Strips</u>: This mode activates when there is a demand for space heating and the temperature in the rock storage bins is greater than 70°F but less than 90°F.

<u>Mode 6 - Space Heating - Heat Strips Only</u>: This mode activates when there is a demand for space heating and the temperature in the rock storage bins is less than 70°F.

<u>Mode 7 - Collector-to-DHW Preheat</u>: This mode activates when the collector loop fan is on and the temperature difference across the heat exchanger unit (water side) is equal to or greater than 12°F. During summer operation, damper D4 closes and damper D2 opens, thus creating a closed loop for DHW preheat only.

### II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### INTRODUCTION

The site was unoccupied in May and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Total solar energy collected was 1.7 million Btu and the total solar energy used was 0.15 million Btu or 8 percent of the collected energy. The change in stored energy was -0.08 million Btu and the total system losses amounted to 1.6 million Btu. Solar energy satisfied 9 percent of the DHW requirements and 11 percent of the space heating requirements. The solar energy system provided a net electrical savings of 0.016 million Btu.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 10.8 million Btu for a daily average of 1406 Btu per square foot. This was below the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area during May of 1516 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of 46 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during May was 70°F as compared with the long-term average for May of 74°F. The number of heating degree-days for the month (based on a 65°F reference) was 32, as compared with the long-term average of zero. The number of cooling degree-days was 151, as compared with the average of 273.

### THERMAL PERFORMANCE

<u>System</u> - During May the solar energy system performed somewhat poorer than expected. The expected performance was determined from a modified f-chart analysis using measured weather and subsystem loads as input. Solar energy used by the system was estimated by assuming that all energy collected would be applied to the load. Actual solar energy used was 0.15 million Btu versus an estimated 0.70 million Btu. System total solar fraction was 11 percent versus an estimated 100 percent.

<u>Collector</u> - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of May was 10.8 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating, the total insolation amounted to 5.9 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of May was 1.7 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 16 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 1.7 million Btu, while solar energy delivered from the collector array directly to the loads amounted to 0.15 million Btu. Because of its design and location, this solar energy site has the potential for storing more energy than is collected. This is because the entire solar energy system (except for the two rock storage bins) is located in the attic. Temperatures in the attic easily reach 125°F

during the day and sensor T200 has recorded 90°F at midnight. As in most air systems, when the collector loop blower (EP 100) goes off, there continues to be low-level air flow due to leakage, natural convection and dampers not fully closing. At this site, this low-level air flow is through the attic ducts, and continues to add solar energy to the rock storage bins after the collector loop blower has stopped. For May, the excess of stored energy plus energy directly to load over collected energy was 0.14 million Btu. This imbalance will be monitored in forthcoming months. Operating energy requird by the collector loop was 0.11 million Btu.

<u>Storage</u> - Solar energy delivered to storage was 1.7 million Btu. There was no energy delivered from storage to the space heating subsystem. Energy loss from storage was 1.8 million Btu. This loss represented 100 percent of the energy delivered to storage. The storage efficiency was a negative 4 percent: This is calculated as the ratio of the sum of the energy removed from storage and the change in stored energy, to the energy delivered to storage. The average storage temperature for the month was 89°F. A negative efficiency at this time of the year is consistent with the site design and operation. Damper D4 was closed on May 15 and prevented collected solar energy from reaching storage. This will allow the storage bins to cool and reach a minimum temperature level, until temperature buildup resumes in the fall heating season.

 $\underline{\text{DHW Load}}$  - Since there was only a total of 3 gallons of DHW consumed during May, a meaningful analysis and discussion of this subsystem cannot be accomplished.

The preheat loop pump was replaced as scheduled by the grantee. The DHW subsystem consumed 0.15 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy during May to maintain an average output temperature of 140°F.

<u>Space Heating Load</u> - The space heating subsystem consumed 0.053 million Btu of solar energy and 0.43 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy to satisfy a

space heating load of 0.48 million Btu. The solar fraction of this load was 11 percent. The space heating subsystem consumed a total of 0.022 million Btu of operating energy, resulting in an electrical energy savings of 0.031 million Btu.

### OBSERVATIONS

This site is now operating in summer status (i.e., damper D4 is closed) and the only solar mode is collector to DHW preheat. Therefore, site reporting will be minimal until space heating is again required.

### ENERGY SAVINGS

The solar energy system provided a net electrical energy savings of 0.016 million Btu. The DHW subsystem provided an electrical energy savings of 0.093 million Btu, while the space heating subsystem contributed an electrical savings of 0.031 million Btu.

### III. ACTION STATUS

No action is required at this time.

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## SCLAR HEATING AND CCCLING DEMCNSTRATION PROGRAM

# ENERGY COLLECTION AND STORAGE SUBSYSTEM (ECSS)

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# SOLAR HEATING AND COCLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

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